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Q99

A recent movie titled 'The Man Who Knew Infinity' is based on the biography of (a) S. Ramanujan (b) S. Chandrasekhar (c) S. N. Bose (d) C. V. Raman Official key: A.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Current Affairs and GK

Current events, government schemes, miscellaneous GK - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a) Official key**

The Man Who Knew Infinity (2015) is a biographical film on the mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan and his Cambridge years with G. H. Hardy, based on Robert Kanigel's book of the same title. That is why (a) is the official key.

(b)

S. Chandrasekhar is the astrophysicist of the **Chandrasekhar limit**; he is not the subject of this film. This option is not the key.

(c)

S. N. Bose of Bose-Einstein statistics is another Indian physicist, not the film's subject. This option is wrong.

(d)

C. V. Raman of the **Raman effect** is a Nobel physicist, not the man portrayed in this movie. This option is not the key.

Summary

Official key is (a) S. Ramanujan. The film follows Ramanujan from Madras to Trinity College, Cambridge, and the Hardy-Ramanujan collaboration on number theory. Chandrasekhar, Bose and Raman are other celebrated Indian scientists whom Prelims often lists beside Ramanujan. The title phrase is Ramanujan's popular biography, not a physics biopic. Only (a) is the correct life.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Hardy-Ramanujan

Collaboration on partitions and other analytic number theory

Fellow of the Royal Society

Ramanujan elected FRS in 1918

National Mathematics Day

22 December, Ramanujan's birth anniversary

Chandrasekhar limit

Maximum mass of a white dwarf; Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

Raman effect

Inelastic scattering of light; C. V. Raman, Nobel 1930

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